

The NASA Moon Photos

My Story of Dealing With NASA in the 1970s

by Vito Saccheri

MUFON-Houston member Vito Saccheri recounts the experience that hooked him on the possible existence of flying saucers and alien civilizations. His memories, whether altered by time or perspective, clearly changed his outlook on life and may give you pause as well. *Houston Sky* spotlights Vito on page 6.

In 1979, I was a project manager for a privately owned engineering company doing business with the Venezuelan oil industry. My counterpart in Venezuela, our client's chief engineer, an American engineer named Lester Howes, had come to Houston on business.

Les and I had spoken by phone and telex for years (no fax machines back then), but we had never met. We hit it off when he arrived, and after a few days, he confided that he had an ulterior motive in coming to Houston. After asking me to keep an open mind, he told me he was both an amateur astronomer and a ufologist and that he wanted my help in obtaining access to secret photos held somewhere inside NASA. I was speechless. When I finished laughing, I realized he was dead serious. Some of the guys at work thought Les was just a little light in the loafers, and others thought he was just plain crazy, but I could see that he was concerned about what I would think of him. After all, we were professional engineers, and he had taken quite a chance with me.

Les showed me a small paperback book entitled *Somebody Else Is on the Moon*, written by a former NASA scientist, George H. Leonard. Leonard had been working in the photo intelligence division of NASA. His job

had been to interpret moon pictures taken by the unmanned space probes we were sending there during the early and mid-sixties. NASA was mapping the moon, scoping out possible landing sites for the future manned missions.

Les lent me the book, and I read it overnight. Leonard had come across photos he felt confirmed the presence of a very ancient—and possibly current—civilization on the moon. He explained that in 1961, President Kennedy had committed the USA to reaching the moon within a decade, primarily because throughout the 1950s, the scientific community had been rocked by observatories around the world, which began reporting and later confirming that “moon craters” were actually disappearing,



right out from under the watchful eyes of their state-of-the-art telescopes! Since the possible ramifications were obvious (and presumably, since the Roswell incident had already gotten the government's attention), the powers that be had decided that Uncle Sam had to be the first to reach the moon.

After arguing futilely with NASA authorities about releasing the photos, Leonard published them himself in his book. He felt the taxpayers had a right to know what NASA knew, pointing out that despite a nine-year mobilization effort that had cost billions of dollars, NASA

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Worth Repeating

A Digest of Ideas from Researchers, Enthusiasts, Buffs, Kooks, Skeptics, Debunkers, and Others

Don't Hold Your Breath

“Relaxing government secrecy rules, President Clinton signed an executive order Monday stripping the classified label from millions of national security documents. The order requires the automatic declassification of all top secret, secret, and confidential information 25 years or older, unless it falls into a narrow exemption category, such as revealing the identity of a source of information... ‘While these rules sound good, it's not clear whether in practice they mean anything,’ said Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy specialist at the Federation of American Scientists...” —AP, *Houston Post*, April 18, 1995

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“Taking Precautions,” Part 2 of “Abductions Investigations: A Deepening Quagmire,” will appear in a later issue.

Worth Repeating

Ripples in Academia

"The Mack affair—both his findings about alien abductions and his treatment by the dean—has caused a stir on the Harvard campus and sent ripples farther afield, raising questions about research methods, academic discipline and freedom of thought.

"I think this is a core, central case of academic freedom," said Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz. "No matter what happens, the damage has been done. The next young scientist who is thinking about going into some field that is not mainstream will have to think twice."

—Christopher B. Daly,
Washington Post, May 1995

The Perfect Explanation

"The Pentagon unveiled a \$10 million saucer-shaped reconnaissance plane it said will be able to detect a basketball on the ground from 45,000 feet high, even in poor weather. The pilotless plane, dubbed DarkStar, was shown Thursday at the Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works plant where it was built. It has a wingspan of 69 feet and stands 5 feet high. It cruises at 180 mph. It's designed to launch and land automatically, with a range of 500 miles and the ability to stay aloft for more than eight hours.

—AP, *Houston Chronicle*, June 3, 1995

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had shut down the entire moon project after only a few landings. His contention was that we had confirmed that we were trespassing! The small photos would show little, so he provided hand-drawn sketches to accompany each photo. And he published the special NASA identification code numbers for each picture.

When I finished the book, I called Les and said I was intrigued and would help. The very next day, we made the first trip out to NASA and spent the day taking the guided and self-guided tours. On the second day, we made our move. We entered the public orientation building and told the receptionist that we wanted to make arrangement to see some moon pictures. With no clue where to start, she eventually directed us to her supervisor, who was equally at a loss. Apparently, no one charged with dealing with the public knew where NASA kept its photos—or whether they kept them at all. And no "Photo Records" department showed up on any list.

We were passed around to at least four other people before someone admitted that NASA had lots of photos "somewhere" on the complex, but that the public wasn't permitted to view "unauthorized" photos of any project. That's when we changed our strategy. Les blurted out, "Isn't it true that NASA is a civilian agency funded by taxpayer money?"

Confusion spread over her face, and I added, "Well, we're two taxpayers, and we're here to see our pictures. Who's got them?"

Before she could recover, we flashed Leonard's book in her face. I continued, "What's so unauthorized about pictures that have already been published?" From then on, we decided to stay on the offensive at all times.

Reinforcements were called in, and we soon found ourselves having the same conversation with the big boys from administration. None had seen the book, but significantly, one had taken the time to confirm that Leonard was in fact a former NASA scientist—at the Jet Propulsion Lab, from what I could gather. This threw them, and they seemed even curious to learn about the book. For after all, the information had been generated by NASA in the first place. We settled for a truce and agreed to return the next day. Before leaving, however, we reiterated that these two taxpayers had every intention of going to the mat with whoever was holding back "our photos."

To make a very long story short, we spent the next several days filling out enough forms to give a woodpecker a headache. My office advised me that NASA had called to confirm my employment history and to inquire about Les. His hotel advised that someone had called to confirm that he was staying there. Obviously, the wheels were

turning. Finally, someone called to say we could see the photos. We returned to NASA thinking we had finally succeeded. But success was not to be so easy. We were directed to a Building 30, which had not been on the tour and which didn't even exist. Building 30 A turned out to be empty, so we walked into Building 30 B and found ourselves in the middle of a high-security area where an existing mission was being monitored. Realizing that we were somewhere we should not have been, we tried to blend in. Failing miserably to do so, we were soon unceremoniously tossed out. Security personnel demanded to know how we had passed the civilian section and what was this about moon pictures, taxpayers, and a book about the moon? We knew we were really in sheep dip when security not only whisked us out of the building but escorted us off the premises altogether.

The next day, after some scrambling on both sides, officials apologized to us for the mix-up. For our part, we insinuated that at least one thousand photocopies of the Leonard book could rain down on everyone on the space center's mailing list. We were counting on this bluff to get us past what we considered an impasse. It was time for NASA to act. After all, we weren't a couple of underwater pipe welders from Boise... We were fellow engineers, brothers of the blood!

Finally, some serious discussions transpired. The photo library, we were told, had been relocated off-site to the "Lunar Landing Observatory" directly adjacent to the east NASA property line on NASA Road 1. They would be expecting us in two more days at 8:00 AM.

Two days later, we drove east on NASA 1 past the main entrance of the facility, found a chain-link fence that marked the eastern limit of the property line, expecting to see a building or sign. Nothing but a heavily wooded area! Driving back and forth along the road trying to decide whether they had done it to us again, we noticed a narrow dirt road running back into the woods directly along NASA's fence line. Hung on the chain between two small posts was a sign that read simply: "No Trespassing." Instinct told us this had to be the place. We lowered the chain and drove about three-quarters of a mile down the dirt road, which U-turned back toward the highway. Directly behind the trees and camouflaged by the woods was our building. There was no number, only a small plaque near the door that read "Lunar Landing Observatory" in half-inch high letters. Somehow we weren't surprised.

Upon entering, we found ourselves in a small alcove. A large main room buzzing with people

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was off to the right, and what appeared to be a small broom closet was on the opposite wall. When we told the receptionist we wanted the library, she pointed toward the broom closet, which as it turned out, opened onto a winding stairway leading down into a dimly lit underground tunnel. I'm certain it took us back toward the NASA property line.

At the end of the tunnel was a large room where we found ourselves standing in front of a wall-to-wall counter separating us from the librarian, who was sitting on a stool. I seem to remember that his name was Roger. He explained that there were at least two million photos in the library, everything NASA had ever photographed since year one. Unfortunately, no one could see "random" photos, as time was always short and filing systems complicated. In other words, to see any picture, you needed its specific code number.

Roger was surprised that we had all the numbers (no one had told him about the book). We handed him our list, thinking we had hit pay dirt at last. But after a quick glance, he gave us the bad news: the numbers were meaningless in Houston. He explained that for security reasons, NASA had split the country into five regions, each with a duplicate set of records and a different code number system.

Leonard's numbers weren't applicable in this facility. I asked where the master list was kept, and Roger replied in Langley, Virginia. Les and I looked at each other... We didn't have to say it, but we suspected who that meant.

We huddled in the corner for a few minutes trying to decide whether this was another stalling effort. But we had come too far to give up. We informed Roger that we wanted to proceed. He said that someone in the NASA complex had the proper forms to start the ball rolling. He just wasn't sure who since no one had every requested the photos before. We were the first, he said, at least in Houston.

A few days later, Roger called us to come fill out new forms, though there wasn't much they didn't already know about us. It took two more days, but our summons finally came. Roger announced that the photos were ready for our inspection. There were, however, strict rules: we were to get three eight-hour business days. We were not allowed pens, pencils, paper, calculators, camera, or recording devices of any kind. Nor could we be left alone with the photos. We were allowed only the book and a magnifying loupe. We would be escorted in and out for lunch and bathroom breaks. If we agreed to these terms, he said, we could begin at nine o'clock the next morning. We arrived at eight.

This time, we were escorted in by two men. We found five extra-long conference room tables set up in a U shape. We had expected to find only the pictures listed in Leonard's book. To our amazement, there were thousands of photos, all in sets of numerical order. Leonard had mentioned that the photos were numbered sequentially by the cameras. He also had mentioned that each time the on-board computer analyzing a photo picked up an anomaly, it triggered a sequence of additional photos that zoomed in on the target closer and closer.

The photos were huge, approximately 32 by 24 inches, with a dull grey, almost dull-black look. On the back of each, technical information was recorded, such as the probe's height above the moon's surface while it was taking the picture, the angle of approach, and the location of the sun in relation to the capsule.

Frustratingly, we had all the technical data for triangulation—simple trigonometry and algebra were all that we needed to compute the size and distance of anything shown. But without paper, calculators, or pencils, we were limited to what we could do in our heads, and we weren't up to it—the numbers were too big, the angles too acute. We had to rely on Leonard's numbers. But we verified everything that he had seen.

To this day, I can remember these views: A boulder that seemed to have been rolled uphill, leaving its tracks in the side of the hill; obvious machinery on the surface, showing bolted sections; three dilapidated "bridges" crossing a chasm that reminded me of the Grand Canyon; pipe fittings that looked like four-way Ts (or Xs) that could be seen in every photo, some with their ends turned up or down as they hung over the edge of a crater; three surprising pyramids that prompted me later to closely study the Egyptian Giza pyramid complex; apparent pipelines criss-crossing the surface, running to and from craters; a UFO rising from the surface and photographed directly above a crater; and perhaps the most memorable, the unmistakable figure of a rectangular structure placed squarely in the biggest crater pictured—the structure looked either very old or under construction, but the crater had to be miles wide, and the camera angle gave a perfect three-dimensional view.

The clarity and resolution were unlike that of anything I had seen before or since, and I shudder to think that this was only the beginnings of the spy-in-the-sky technology that has evolved since then.

Nobody said much at all for three days. Lester was in hog heaven, having realized his greatest ambition. And I was hooked on UFOs.

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Worth Repeating

From One Who Knows

"It is the nature of government officials to cover up what they cannot explain. Otherwise, they may be called upon to explain mysteries that they cannot understand." —Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jack Anderson, in his 1994 UFO-themed novel, *Millenium*

"Breakaway Hit... Media and Critical Darling"

"After his experiences bringing *X* to such vivid, creepy life, one can't help but wonder if Chris Carter [*Files* creator, writer, and executive producer] believes in UFOs, aliens, vampires, megaworms, and the like, all of which have been *File* subjects. 'I'm still pretty much a skeptic,' Carter says, laughing. 'I've had a lot of exposure to people who believe wholeheartedly in these things. That erodes my skepticism to an extent. But I've not seen anything or had anything happen to me personally that I'd consider a paranormal phenomenon. I guess I'm like Mulder in that I desperately want to believe. But I'm like Scully in thinking, 'Prove it to me.' Carter plans to eventually develop a companion series. He reports that he has been approached by 20th Century Fox, whose television division produces *X*, about morphing the show onto the big screen." —TV reviewer Ian Spelling, *Houston Chronicle*, May 20, 1995

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Roswell Runaround

Update on the Ray Santilli Roswell "Autopsy" Film

by Gayle Nesom



Merlin (mûr 'lɪn), n.
Arthurian Romance;
conjurer, sorcerer,
venerable magician;
one who practices
tricks of illusion and
sleight of hand

Merlin Productions

International
Exploitation
Management

IMAGINATIONS

Would you buy an expensive film of dubious origin—or even a used car—from a company called Merlin, Exploitation, or Imaginations? Well, neither would I! The entire Roswell autopsy film fiasco has been too pat, too convenient, and all too timely. How many diversions must the Roswell Incident be subjected to before the non-UFO public finally says, “No more!”?

Before the autopsy film rumors began, Karl Pflock’s Mogul balloon theory, New Mexico Representative Steven Schiff’s congressional inquiry, and the GAO’s forthcoming report were keeping Roswellians and other ufologists pre-occupied. Isn’t it interesting how the focus has now changed? And with all the conflicting observations and opinions, what—and who—can you believe?

If you’ve followed the case, you are no doubt familiar with its many problems: the nature of the actual procedure performed, the existence of autopsy photographer Jack Barnett, the identity of Dr. Detlev (or Detley) W. Bronk, the alleged presence of President Truman, the much postponed viewings, the rumored amounts and number of offers to buy, the overlapping promotional companies involved, and the roles of Santilli’s agents Chris Carey and Carl Nagatis.

Among the approximately 100 people who attended the May 5 London viewing of the film were initial go-between Reg Presley, cereologist Colin Andrews, British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) leader Philip Mantle (who has taken some heat for promoting the film for his August 1995 Sheffield BUFORA conference), ufologist and cereologist George Wingfield, and Roswell Declaration author and researcher Kent Jeffrey, to name only a few.

Wingfield is clearly suspicious of the film, though he has publicly hedged his bets somewhat: “Certainly a lot more investigation must be done before Santilli’s film footage can be accepted as genuine.” Close to the London action, he may want to keep open the channels of communication. Wingfield does, however, suggest the possibility (*probability*, in my opinion) that “the footage was produced as deliberate disinformation to discredit the Roswell story and to confuse and mislead UFO researchers.”

British *UFO Magazine* editor Graham E. Birdsall (who himself stated that his expose of

numerous inconsistencies concerning the film “should be circulated to as wide an audience as possible, with the express aim of informing the UFO community at large that the Roswell archive footage is highly suspect and that previous claims as to its authenticity are bogus”) quoted on the internet a message he received from Roswell researcher Stanton T. Friedman: “I did meet briefly with Santilli on Tuesday, April 4, just before I left [England]. I did not see any film. He hustled me out of their tiny office to a coffee shop. I have trouble believing anything he says. He admits he is only in it for the money.”

For those without real-time access to Roswell news (the internet and rumor mill have carried the latest autopsy film speculations for some time now), stay tuned to the upcoming *Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Journal*. Kent Jeffrey’s position statement concerning the film, excerpted below, will appear in the June issue, and those lucky enough to catch the upcoming MUFON Symposium in Seattle *may* get to hear his story in person. Jeffrey, the only Roswell researcher invited to the May 5 London viewing, has come out strongly against the film, stating categorically that it is a fraud:

“Because of the dubious nature of the film and the questionable way in which it is being handled by those in possession of it, there is a tremendous potential for damage to the entire Roswell effort. Because I was the only Roswell researcher at the May 5 showing, I feel a responsibility to put neutrality aside and speak out.

“Before going into specific details about the viewing, I would like to state up front and unequivocally that there is no (zero!!!) doubt in my mind that this film is a fraud. I might add, however, that if, against all odds, what I consider the impossible did occur and this film actually turned out to be genuine, I would be one of the first to celebrate, as researchers would finally have in their possession the Holy Grail of evidence necessary to break the Roswell case wide open.

“Over the last years, the three major non-profit UFO research organizations in the United States, along with a number of private individuals operating on their own time and at their own

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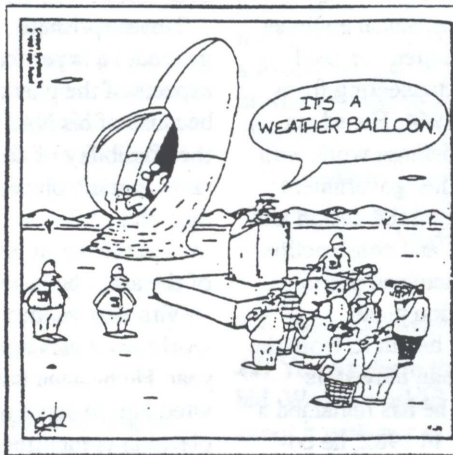
Roswell Declaration Update

The following is an addendum to Roswell researcher Kent Jeffrey's Bulletin #2 ("The Purported 1947 Roswell Film") of the International Roswell Initiative. The Bulletin will appear in the June issue of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Journal:

The investigation of the Roswell case is still very much an ongoing affair. Despite the passage of nearly 48 years, new witnesses are still being sought by researchers, as many of those involved were young enough at the time to still be alive today. The GAO report on Roswell is expected to be out in July. It is also reported that the Air Force will be coming out with a follow-up to their September 8, 1994, report on Roswell, which, according to the report itself, was supposed to be the "final word."

The International Roswell Initiative is also an ongoing concern. With the count of Roswell Declarations over 17,000 so far, signed Declarations are still being received. A special World Wide Web page for the International Roswell Initiative is now being set up on the internet. With this new feature, it will be possible to fill out and "sign" a Roswell Declaration electronically. It will also be possible to download from the Web page all bulletins of the International Roswell Initiative. The address (available in June) of the Web page is <http://www.qlink.net/roswell>. The e-mail address is roswelldec@aol.com.

Your help in distributing International Roswell Initiative bulletins and the Roswell Declaration is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact the International Roswell Initiative, 3105 Gables Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30319. Call or fax (404) 240-0655.



The letter below was written to OMNI Magazine by New Hampshire high school teacher Steven Juster in response to the magazine's 10/94 feature on the Roswell Declaration:

Please find enclosed in this box 800 plus Roswell petitions, gathered by the students of the Londonderry High School's science fiction and fantasy classes (42 students)... I had earlier explained to my classes the problems encountered in trying to get information through the Freedom of Information Act. When I saw the petition, I presented it as a follow-up to that earlier discussion. Our discussion in class escalated, and we found ourselves starting a

movement. We contacted every high school in New Hampshire, sent messages via internet, and moved throughout the community.

While our personal efforts were gratifying, we were disappointed that only a smattering of our 800 plus came from outside our community.

My students are heroes in the Roswell effort. It was difficult to explain the entire story to every person

to whom the petition was brought forward. It was also difficult to make clear that this is not a matter of UFOs, but a matter of freedom, access, and choice. These students, many non-honor roll, did this over 800 times.

I applaud your magazine for its groundbreaking work on UFOs, particularly this past year, and the ability to give a mass audience access to this petition.

Please read the enclosed articles, chronicling our paper trail on the long, strange trip known as Roswell. They tell our story.

Sincerely,

Steven Juster, English teacher

Deep-Throat

Unsubstantiated-But-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine

This info just in from the Groom Lake Desert Rat...

The Area 51 Research Center has opened a branch office in Las Vegas and promoted Rachel, Nevada-area director Glenn Campbell to Regional Director. The new office happens to provide an excellent view of another secret place—the "Janet" terminal at McCarran Airport. This is where most Area 51 employees board unmarked 737s and fly to work. The parking lot is about 100 yards from the new office's window. Campbell says, "Area 51 may not officially exist, but we now have the power to track and identify nearly everyone who works there." While the research headquarters in Rachel remains open to the public (weekends and most mornings), the Las Vegas annex will be closed to the public except by prior arrangement....

If you happen to visit Las Vegas, you might want to check out the Area 51 Nightclub, which will open this month. Next door is the Dreamland Lounge. Both feature drinks with cosmic names, music, dancing, and UFO memorabilia. According to a recent press release, cocktail waitresses will be costumed as aliens, and security personnel will be attired in military-type uniforms.... **Numerous reports** are surfacing of a new UFO museum in Midway, New Mexico, just up the road from Roswell, which already has two UFO museums of its own. These

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Roswell Runaround, from page 4

expense, have put a lot of resources and effort into the admirable cause of getting to the truth of what could well be the 'story of the millennium.' Although it is still very much an uphill struggle, much progress has been made in bringing to the Roswell case serious and credible attention on the part of the media, the public, and a number of politicians. It is unfortunate that there are now those who would unscrupulously exploit the Roswell Event for

their own financial gain."

Keeping an open mind is a worthy ambition and a healthy attitude for UFO "buffs," who frequently are either all too gullible or all too cynical. But by now, enough facts about this film and its promoters have become known—and the implications made clear—for wishful thinkers to get wise. Don't place too many bets on this unfolding hoax. For sure, it's one deal that I won't invest in. ♦

UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

If you have just begun reading this column, I recommend that you obtain the previous two issues of *Houston Sky*, No. 3, Feb./Mar. 1995, and No. 4, April/May 1995, to be current with my review of *A Scientific Analysis Of Unconventional Flying Objects*, by the late Paul R. Hill.

In Hill's large unpublished work, a number of UFO propulsion concepts are systematically eliminated through detailed scientific analysis, leaving his theory that a force field emission of some type is the means for UFO flight. Since there is no evidence that UFOs use the earth's atmosphere to obtain an acceleration force, Hill reasoned that only a "repulsive force field" would have the properties of negative gravity or, in quantum terminology, anti gravitons and would explain the UFO's unusual flight characteristics.

In order to build credibility for his theory, Hill committed a large portion of his research into analyzing specific witness accounts of UFO actions, plasma effects, sounds, and ground traces associated with a sighting. His objective was to explain, using mathematics and scientific theories, how the repulsive force field is aimed or focused by vehicle tilting and how ground traces were the result of ionized air under the UFO contacting the earth's surface.

Hill hypothesized that a force field powered saucer shaped craft "would exhibit a plasma zone shaped like an inverted gas flame [which] suggests that the plasma, or ionized air, is swept inwards by the axially symmetric air flow about the vehicle." This

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Spotlight on Vito Saccheri

To fully appreciate Vito Saccheri's account of his moon research at NASA (see feature article, page 1), you'd have to understand the kind of person he is. Fantastic tales abound in this field (see story, page 4!), and Vito is one of the few people whose story I could accept based just on his word. As someone whose advice I have relied on over the last two years, he has been rational and dispassionate, conservative in his ufological assumptions, and utterly dependable. To me, he is as credible as they come.

Credibility is a given in Vito's work as well. The success of his business—he owns a technical investigations company—rests on expertise, reputation, and integrity. A mechanical engineer, Vito obtained a special "accelerated" applied science degree in mechanical engineering from City College of New York in 1964. His education and training led him into defense work with MW Kellogg Company and other government contractors, his work focusing on the design and fabrication of specialized plant and construction equipment used in worldwide chemical, petrochemical, and refining production plants.

In 1970, Vito "escaped," as he put it, from the frozen North, when MW Kellogg moved its headquarters to Houston, and he has remained a transplanted Texan ever since. In 1982, he co-founded Gen-Tech Inc., which engineered and manufactured products for the oil industry. Five years later, when Houston's oil industry was hit by a recession, and Mexico, Venezuela, and other developing countries were similarly crippled, Vito established Ameridian Technologies Inc., a technical investigations firm dealing with accident reconstruction, rotating equipment failures, engine analysis, metal fracture and

failure analysis, and forensic engineering and technology development in areas such as thermodynamics and solar energy.

His foray into the UFO world occurred many years after his introduction to the phenomenon in the mid-1950s, when as a boy in Brooklyn, his father had encouraged him to read retired U.S. Marine Corps Major Donald E. Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers From Outer Space*. The 1953 book was his first and last exposure to the subject until his meeting in 1979 with Lester Howes, when he was confronted with photographs of the moon that thoroughly shook his world view. Since that time, says Vito, he has been hooked on UFOs.

Not surprisingly, given his engineering background, he is particularly intrigued by scientific aspects of the phenomenon. Also predictably, because of his NASA adventure, he has pursued the possibility of alien intervention in the human race. Particle physics, anthropology, archaeology, and ancient mythology—references to the man in the moon, for example—are just some of the areas he has researched.

Vito first ventured into the organized UFO world two years ago, joining MUFON only last year. He became involved locally when I invited him to serve on MUFON-Houston's new planning committee. One of several "pillars" of MUFON-Houston's initial investigations training classes this past spring, Vito relayed his NASA story for the first time—somewhat tentatively—to astonished fellow class members over lunch. After an encore telling a couple of weeks later, I persuaded him to put his account on paper—for his own record and for ours.

Vito can be contacted through *Houston Sky*. ♦

—Gayle Nesom

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On our last day, actually during our last hours, I had seen enough and decided to stretch my legs. As I was escorted back to the main room, I noticed a false panel that was slightly ajar and peeked inside. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves were filled with white three-ring binders. Roger volunteered that most of the binders were filled with the details of NASA's scientific experiments conducted in space. The rest, he said, were simply transcripts of the manned space flights, including the moon landings. Since he had gotten to know us over the three days and had enjoyed seeing the photos himself, he gave me a wink and a nod and allowed me to enter the room unescorted.

I spent most of the remaining time poring over the scientific data, as I wasn't much interested in the transcripts. After all, along with four billion others, I had watched the first lunar landing on TV. Fortunately, however, I decided to browse some transcripts and flipped casually through a few, killing the last 15 minutes of time. Then my eyes caught it: "Houston, we've got a bogey at two o'clock."

And there was more: "Roger that, Apollo. Switching to alpha. Roll eight degrees and begin sequence...."

"Roger, Mission Control. Confirming alpha."

Though I knew instinctively what it meant, I couldn't believe what I was reading. I raced through the pages and other mission tran-

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Behind the Scenes at "Sightings"

by Vince Johnson

Vince Johnson's interview (Part 2 of 3) with Jonathan Jerald, "Sightings" research director, continues from the last issue of *Houston Sky*.

VJ: Does "Sightings" have any regular liaison with MUFON, FUFOR, CUFOS, or any of the other UFO groups?

JJ: We've developed contacts and friendships with people in the different organizations from when and where we've done stories, like with Bill Jones in Ohio [*Ohio MUFON State Section Director and publisher of the Ohio UFO Notebook*]. He calls up with tips, and I've found him very helpful, especially with the Hangar 18 pieces.

We like to encourage our viewers to contact MUFON and CUFOS when it's appropriate. When we have people in certain areas that need information, we call the local organizations and ask if we can put them in touch. We try to facilitate the contact to help research in the various communities.

I understand MUFON is starting a phone service, and I think they should go online with e-mail, too. I told them we get more e-mail than phone calls, and it's cheaper. All that's needed are a couple of computers.

[MUFON is in the process of establishing an internet address. "Sightings" e-mail address is sightings@aol.com.]

VJ: I bet with the rising public interest in the subject matter, you get a lot of interesting correspondence from your viewers. Can you describe the contents of a typical day's mail?

JJ: We get hundreds of pieces a week—and a couple of hundred e-mail messages, 150 or so phone calls, which are recorded and then transcribed, probably around 400 pieces of correspondence. That has turned out to be a remarkable resource for developing stories. We are developing an interactive service for the internet starting this summer.

VJ: When you get these leads, how are they handled?

JJ: It depends on how the lead comes in. We have an e-mail producer, and he looks at everything that comes in and brings it to the attention of those researchers who specialize in whatever area, like UFOs. We have interns who respond to every single piece of mail we get. Most of the mail is queries: "How do I get in touch with that organization," for example—so we simply supply the answer. The next largest category is people who've had personal experiences of one kind or another. I would say that one in 20 of

those is of a nature that prompts us to follow up, and then again, out of that, maybe one in five may turn into a story for us. That is a very important resource for us.

VJ: Has the problem of hoaxing presented itself to you?

JJ: Oh sure, we've been hooked. At least once we know of, and we discovered that [the story] had been done in its previous incarnation over at Fox as a half-hour show. We did a story with a guy up in Canada—the Guardian case. After it aired, we discovered it was a hoax, so we did a follow-up that explained how he did it. The problem is that [hoaxes] lend a bad name to ufology.

VJ: On the subject of hoaxes, what do you know about the Roswell film footage story coming out of England?

JJ: We know all about it.

VJ: Were you invited to bid?

JJ: Yes, I believe Paramount was invited to bid. We were asked to—basically we've talked about it with our executive producer, who queried us on what we knew about it. I assume the purpose of the query was to determine whether it was worth spending money on. I wouldn't buy 150 minutes of film based on five minutes of it under any circumstances. One explanation I've heard for this film was that it was some sort of dramatic production out of Brazil. I have heard an edited version of the film has a soundtrack that is a song titled "Elvis Rides a UFO." Now just remember that this was found in a collection of Elvis films, so that is not so farfetched. The source of that particular piece of information is as reliable as anything else in this story. What is even more interesting is that color footage is going to be released, along with a great deal of documents when the Air Force releases its book-length report on Roswell.

VJ: What kind of footage?

JJ: I have no idea. They aren't saying. But you can bet it's not going to be alien autopsies!

[The Jerald interview will conclude in the next issue of *Houston Sky*.] ♦

"Sightings" airs in Houston at the ungodly hour of midnight on Saturdays. Call KTXH-TV Channel 20 at 661-2020 to request a better time!

Notebook, from page 3
theory was confirmed, Hill believed, by the eye witness accounts of three police officers (Dale Spaur, Wilber Neff, and Wayne Huston) in two separate police cars as they chased a UFO across Ohio and into Pennsylvania. The chase occurred predawn on April 17, 1966, with the "ice cream cone shaped" emittance (shown sketched and described by the witnesses as attached to the saucer bottom) from the domed saucer reportedly clear and visible. The officers said that the vehicle tilted forward to start and backward to stop. "At low speeds the cone was symmetric, like the kettle drum case, but at high speed they reported that the cone was swept backward, thus confirming (Paul Hill's analysis) that the cone was a plasma, and the UFO a saucer." Hill theorized that the bright searchlight beams emitted from UFO bottoms are not electromagnetic beams but columns of ionized air, activated by X-ray photons from the repulsive force field and shaped by controlled focusing of the field. Hill wrote that "without the ability to focus the force field, the field would have little value to a UFO." The ability to point and focus allows the craft to maneuver in any direction chosen.

After studying numerous witness accounts, Hill noted that "saucers emit a characteristic noise generally referred to as a hum, buzz, or whine." He cited the famous Lonnie Zamora, Socorro, New Mexico, case, where the UFO observed made a roar at lift off ending in the whine described above.

According to Hill, there is evidence that the noise is

See Notebook, page 8

Notebook, from page 7

associated with the UFO's propulsion and is cyclic in nature. He states that "from the weight of the evidence, from the vibrations felt by people to vibrating objects like street signs and smooth water set to dancing," the UFO field and its forces are cyclic. The hum usually winds up to a whine that would indicate rotating machinery. However, this may not be the case, Hill writes, if one uses the analogy of non-moving equipment such as "the electric transformer, in which vibration and sound are caused by the cycling of field forces."

Next: Paul Hill's analysis of ground trace effects from UFO propulsion. ♦

Deep Throat, from page 5

museums must be quite an attraction for this small area to support three of them....

Not only are the alien-themed commercials and advertisements prolific these days, but Psychosp of the

Groom Lake Desert Rat is aware of four Area 51 movies in the works. (By the way, "Apollo 13" will be in theaters soon.)... **For a great**

read on super-secret stuff, check out the *Desert Rat*

newsletter published by Psychosp and filled with

information about Area 51, a place so secret that the government recently said it

might exist. Write to Desert Rat, HCR Box 38, Rachel, NV 89001, or e-mail to psychoserv@aol.com

(subscriptions free to e-mail customers)... **Rumors of a**

public disclosure of UFO/ET reality are widespread, as usual. One well-placed

ufologist puts this acknowledgment "months away," while a very clandestine

See *DT*, page 9

Breakthrough: **A Sampler from Whitley Strieber's New Book**

If you are one of the legion introduced to ufology through Whitley Strieber's books *Communion* and *Transformation*, you'll be glad to know that his much-heralded new book, *Breakthrough*, is now available in bookstores. And after a long and uneasy absence, Strieber has ventured back to the UFO scene. *Houston Sky* very much appreciates his permission to reprint these excerpts.

From the internet: "I am attaching a sampler from my new book *Breakthrough*, which will be out at the end of May. Please feel free to share it with others if you wish, and I hope that you enjoy it. I'm sending it to people who have corresponded with me in the past six months, and/or have asked for a copy of it.... I hope that this sampler encourages you to try the book. Thank you for giving me your valuable time and attention. For what it's worth, I might add that six of the first 20 readers had contact experiences during or after their reading of the manuscript. If you want it, I hope you get the same." —Whitley Strieber

"*Breakthrough* is probably among the strangest books you will ever read. I think that this is because it is an honest account of contact with people and a culture very different from our own, but obviously very concerned with us, in their own way. The book contains proof that they are real, and one respected book review, the Kirkus Reviews, has already stated, that it will 'give you pause.'

"*Breakthrough* is very different from most books about visitors and aliens. First, there are many named witnesses who are willing to step forward. Second, it is not a horror story, but rather the story of a struggle that remade a man intellectually and spiritually. In this sense, it is much more like real life with the visitors than the scary stories that come out of the UFO community. Only a small percentage of people who wrote me told such stories. But obviously, we should proceed down this very new path with caution. But also, I think, with curiosity and love. Welcome to *Breakthrough*."

"I Got Thousands of Letters From the Hidden Choir"

"From the publication of *Communion* in 1987 until September of 1994, I received 139,914 letters. Between my wife, myself and our secretary, we read them all. Personally, I have read about 40,000 pieces of mail. We saved a representative sample of about 30,000, 8,000 of which have been retyped and mostly scanned into computer-readable format. This was paid for by the Communion Foundation, which is a private

foundation funded by me out of earnings on my books. As far as possible, we answered each person, at least thanking them for their effort. The letters have not been statistically tabulated or professionally analyzed. This awaits both very substantial funds and access to the scientific professionals needed for the work.

"We have created some rough statistics regarding our letters. Eighty percent of them reflect either positive encounters or encounters where the visitors seemed neutral. Sixty percent specifically mention fear. Twenty percent report negative encounters. Three percent specifically mention hypnosis by UFO researchers, and nine out of ten of these perceived their encounters as negative. (This is probably not an outcome of hypnosis. These people sought help because of their bad experiences.)

"Most witnesses are articulate, concerned people who are very genuinely puzzled about what has happened to them and are seeking knowledge. I have received letters from many prominent people, including military officers from Australia, Belgium, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. All of these people have been guaranteed total confidentiality, and in cases where it has been asked that no record of correspondence be kept, as was the case with a general who had encounters along with his wife and children, the request has always been kept. Most of my correspondents were writing not to get an answer so much as to clarify their own memories and gain the satisfaction of telling somebody else what had happened to them."

"My Own Conclusion Is Called AEON"

"It should be understood clearly that the characterization of the visitor experience as fearful and evil has four sources:

1. People who want to create the impression that the visitors are Biblical demons.
2. Disinformationists who want to spread fear as a control mechanism.
3. UFO researchers who have only had contact with the small number of people calling for help.
4. Witnesses, like myself, who have had a hard time, at least at first.

See *Breakthrough*, page 9

Breakthrough, from page 8

"Where do the visitors fit into our future? Wherever we want them to. They stand ready to respond in any way they can. I see no reason why scientists, gaining contact with them, cannot expect to obtain a great acceleration of all their disciplines. I think that many ordinary people are going to discover that they possess the potential to lead extraordinary lives.

My method of getting to the visitors has always been to indicate my availability by challenging my fears and maintaining a meditative and contemplative state of mind. As more and more of us turn our faces toward them, I anticipate that they will become less secretive. As we embrace our potential by demonstrating that we can make use of it, the pressure will get less and we will finally begin to see who is really behind those fearsome masks.

"If my own experience is any example, the visitors are prepared to give us the exact minimum amount of knowledge that we need to do things on our own. They are not here to

carry us, but to tempt us into walking, which is why they will always stay just out of reach.

"I suppose that science will remain institutionally in denial for some time, but I also know that there are already a few physicists who are struggling with their own contact experiences, and I expect that their secret discovery that the visitors are real will soon begin to spread through the scientific and academic undergrounds.

"The most difficult thing that our intellectual community will have to face is not that very real visitors of many different kinds may be here, but that physical being has this enormous unguessed dimension that the past identified as the soul, and the Age of Reason rejected as a source of superstition and religious enslavement."

Breakthrough. 1995. Whitley Strieber. New York: Harper Collins, 297 pages. ♦

NASA Photos, from page 6

scripts and found similar dialogue:

"Mission Control, we've got Santa Claus coming over the hill...."

"Roger, Apollo. Hold your fix. Switching bravo. Do you copy?"

"Roger, Houston. Bravo link...."

These guys were reporting UFO activity, but I couldn't remember ever hearing this during the live TV broadcasts of lunar missions in '69 and '70. I was too dumbfounded to say a word and too scared to tell Les or Roger. I didn't want to get either of them in trouble—we had no clearance to see these documents.

So I just kept my mouth shut while Les asked Roger if there was any way to buy some of the pictures we had reviewed. Roger gave us more forms to fill out and told us it would take several weeks. When the pictures arrived, Les was back in Venezuela. They were lousy, as we expected, with almost no resolution. No one who saw them was impressed, least of all me. But I remained preoccupied all the same, particularly with my other find.

Not until years later did I mention the transcripts to a few close friends. One eventually mentioned a special lady he thought I should meet. Since I don't have permission to use her name, I'll call her Jane. Jane was a college coed at the time, transcribing audio tapes for NASA. I eventually asked her how astronauts could talk about UFOs during live broadcasts being transmitted all over the world without anyone hearing their conversation.

She explained that the space program had

developed many technologies which at the time had not been declassified or adapted for commercial use. One of these new developments—unknown to the general public—was instant replay video, which would become common later. But in 1969 and '70, only a handful of people were aware of it. Thus, NASA could switch the Mission Control picture to a live broadcast of a news reporter standing next to a full-scale mockup, and while a viewer's attention was diverted, the real stuff was happening behind the scenes. It's no wonder that in the early days, only military pilots were qualified to be astronauts. These were the guys with the *real* right stuff—they knew how to keep their mouths shut!

When I met moon photo researcher Marvin Czarnik in 1995, I learned that he had helped develop some of the technical systems used at NASA. Besides the length of time of instant replay, he knew that code words like "alpha" and "bravo" referred to special switching stations around the country that "switched" broadcast reception away from Houston and Mission Control directly to CIA headquarters in Langley. This was my missing puzzle piece. I knew then for certain who it was that had the master list of photographs.

In 1980, another puzzle piece fell into place. A friend had shown me a special

See NASA Photos, page 11

Deep Throat, from page 8

phone source recently reported that disclosure is even more imminent—so much so that a secret, invitation-only meeting has probably already taken place as *Houston Sky* goes to press.

The agenda was rumored to concern disclosure of the UFO/Roswell reality. Invitees were made to sign a statement that they would not divulge location, time, or agenda items.... **If**

you've heard rumblings about OMNI Magazine, they're true.

OMNI is no longer publishing a monthly magazine—April was the last regular edition. The magazine will now be published four times a year in print, and possibly more often electronically (on America OnLine, look for a WWW site in the near future). The "new" publication will be out in September--no subscriptions, available on the newsstands only.... **Word has it a red California wine**, Le Cigare Volant, has a cigar-shaped UFO beaming a red light down over an ox-drawn cart. It seems that in 1954, a French village was worried that landing UFOs might damage the vineyards. The villagers passed an ordinance prohibiting the landing of flying saucers or cigars in their vineyards. Ask for a Bonny Doon Vineyard wine.... **Austin Bureau KHOU-TV (CBS affiliate) reporter Jim Moore** (Houstonians may remember him as the reporter who broadcast five live spots from Gulf Breeze three years ago when the "Intruders" miniseries aired on CBS) is writing a UFO-related novel and hopes to be finished by summer's end. He's looking for an agent *and* for business advice. Contact him on the internet at jimmoore@i-link.net or in care of *Houston Sky*.

Heard any rumors? Pass them on via snailmail or e-mail to houston.sky@aol.com. ♦

Worth Repeating

"Backwoods Ignoramuses?"

"Who believes in UFOs, psychic powers, Bigfoot, and all that stuff? Until lately, scientists didn't care about answers to those questions—they were too busy trying to debunk the beliefs to delve into their roots. But now they are focusing new research on what they call pseudoscience and coming to conclusions that surprise them... According to Dr. Raymond Eve, a social psychologist at The University of Texas at Arlington, who reported his findings at a recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. 'People who believe in UFOs, ESP, and the like aren't doing it out of ignorance or mental instability. It's quite rational. They just proceed from different assumptions.'" —*Houston Chronicle*, 5/14/95

Whitley Strieber Protests

"On June 11, *Parade Magazine* falsely stated that I am an epileptic, implying that they got this information from the Epilepsy Foundation of America. I am not an epileptic and have been extensively tested for this disease and diagnosed with a normal brain. At no time has *Parade* or the Epilepsy Foundation ever asked to see my medical records on this matter...

"Please distribute this as widely as possible and, if you wish, take the time to write a letter of protest to *Parade*, demanding that they retract the statement. This letter is going to everybody online who has written me. I hope that you get it into as many places as possible." —*internet message from Whitley Strieber*

◆ Flash Back

UFOs Reported by Foreign Military Personnel

Colombia, South America—1972

In December 1972, I moved to Colombia, where I began teaching English at the U.S.-sponsored bi-national center in Bogota. Most of my employment has been in teaching English as a second language—in Colombia, Zaire, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and the USA, currently in San Antonio.

Most of my students have been foreign military personnel. Frequently, after final exams, I find I have time left to kill with the students, and I often open the discussion to topics that go beyond the scope of the course, such as amusing or embarrassing experiences with cross-cultural communication, ghost stories, and, of course, UFOs. Invariably, with military students, there is a variety of opinions regarding UFOs, whether the students are from the same country or a mix of countries. Military students may wear uniforms, but their ways of thinking are typically *not* uniform in this area.

In 1972, partly because I had previously taught with the Defense Language Institute at Lackland Air Force Base, I was picked to teach a small group of military officers two hours a day in the Presidential Palace (Palacio de San Carlos). I taught this group for almost the entire year and established a good rapport with them. The group consisted of all the military officers assigned directly to the Colombian president, including his helicopter pilot from the Colombian air force, a security officer from the national police, a navy captain, the protocol officer from the army, and an army colonel from the Presidential Palace.

During the year, I twice touched on the topic of UFOs, hoping perhaps to learn something from these gentlemen, who sometimes worked

closely with the president of their country.

On one of these two occasions, when we were all together, I had asked them what they thought the most likely explanation was for the more substantial, reliable UFO sightings, asking them as I have so many students over the years. I was fascinated to find that this group was unanimous in affirming their belief—and quick to respond to my question—that we were being observed by extraterrestrials. Never before or since that time have I had such a unanimous response to this question.

While waiting for a ride back to my apartment after the class, the Colombian navy captain remained with me a few minutes and, when we were alone, told me of a nighttime UFO incident involving one of their frigates patrolling the coast. He described a glowing object that had hovered above the frigate, affecting electromagnetic equipment on board before speeding away.

Years later in the U.S., after being re-employed by the Defense Language Institute at Lackland, I privately asked another Colombian student, this one a Colombian air force colonel whose English comprehension was high, whether he had ever been briefed about UFOs in Colombia, and if so, whether he had been told that we were being observed by extraterrestrials. His response was also a 'Yes!'

Cross-cultural communication being what it is, I could have misinterpreted the Colombian military officers' responses. My impression was, nonetheless, that they may have been telling me a bit more than my own government is willing to let on. —*Cliff Gieseke*, San Antonio MUFON member ♦

Subscriptions & Contributions

Houston Sky is mailed six times a year free to Houston-area MUFON members. **Beginning in October/November 1995, *Houston Sky* will be available by subscription only.** Send a check for \$15 (\$20 foreign) payable to Houston, PO Box 1718, Bellaire, TX 77402.

Subscriber/Contributor: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Date: _____

MUFON-Houston Update

MUFON-Houston will meet for the second time on Saturday, June 17, in the Harvey Hotel, 2712 Hwy. 59 (SW Freeway), from 3 to 5 PM. At the meeting, we will discuss how local members would like to see the organization grow and also watch the new Walt Disney special "Alien Encounters From New Tomorrowland," which in tone and content is reportedly unlike any Disney has previously produced.

As *Houston Sky* goes to print, four participants of MUFON-Houston's first investigations training class have "graduated" from Trainees to Field Investigators. Congratulations to Claudia Arnold, Steve Clappart, Steve Shaw, and Jeff James. Bill Eatwell and Ronny Wach are awaiting their exam results.

Of the 17 membership surveys I received (from the 143 mailed to local MUFON members and other *Houston Sky* readers), numerous respondents said that they would like to participate in organizational matters. Many thanks! If you are one of these people or any other member who would like to get involved, please come an hour early—at 2 PM—for an "operations planning" committee meeting. Getting involved is the best way to

meet others interested in UFOs and to learn more about the subject than can be done through reading and watching TV. Please consider helping out. Important items to be discussed at *both* meetings are the location and frequency of future gatherings, and the financial support and strategies needed for next year.

Speaking of support, please be aware that *Houston Sky* will be switching to subscriptions beginning with the second year, the October/November 1995 issue. This year, the newsletter has been paid for primarily by Rebecca Schatte and me and several subscriptions from non-MUFON members. If you would like to continue receiving *Houston Sky* after issue 6, you are welcome to send in your \$15 (\$20 foreign) *now*—your subscription will not kick in until after the July/August issue.

There seems to be a strong interest in the Marfa trip, which will likely happen in mid- to late October. (I have ordered a seven-minute video of the Marfa lights, which we will watch if it arrives in time.)

If you're interested in socializing, plan on adjourning to nearby Pico's after the meeting. Hope to see you on June 17.

—Gayle Nesom

Nasa Photos, from page 9

congressional subcommittee report on moon rocks brought back by the astronauts and a feasibility study on colonizing the moon. The document was dated 1972 or '73 and concluded that moon colonization using giant plastic air bubbles was unrealistic and that we would need to transport air from the earth. The congressional report concluded that there was plenty of oxygen on the moon trapped in the rocks. The recommended solution: pulverize the rocks on a large scale with major excavations. The liberated oxygen would be stored in underground caverns and tunnel systems and the debris from these pulverized rocks dumped into the existing craters. Naturally, the craters would eventually disappear, an observation made by astronomers long before the first moon landings and, ironically, one that had initially prompted Leonard and other scientists of the 1950s to analyze early moon photos.

That the moon could be occupied by others who periodically visit the earth makes perfect sense to me. I remember in the 1960s, after President Kennedy mobilized NASA, that the talk was about beating the Russians to the

moon and using it as a station, or stepping stone, to the stars. In those days, there were great debates on who would get the mining and mineral rights if gold or other precious metals were found. Also in those days, there were arguments about allowing the U.S. military to place missiles on the moon since it was not to be used militarily.

Today, we no longer talk about using the moon as a base of any kind. Instead, we talk about using space stations. Why? The moon would seem to be a ready-made station. And why aren't companies like U.S. Steel, 3M, and Shell Oil lining up for concessions to the moon's mineral rights? I can remember when Pan Am World Airways was actually selling advance tickets to the moon! And finally, when has the government's Defense Department *not* pushed for funding to build a strategic missile base with first-strike capability? They're still building Star Wars.

Personally, I think Leonard was right, and I thank Lester Howes for trusting me to get involved. Someday, I'll track him down and tell him about those transcripts. ♦

HOUSTON SKY

No. 5, June/July 1995

Houston Sky is published as a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information for Houston-area MUFON members and others. Because views within the UFO community are so varied, the opinions and observations expressed in *HS* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff or of other MUFON members.

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Review

Project Delta: A Study of Multiple UFO

by David Mayo

Of the many problems that plague ufology, the lack of hard scientific evidence may lead the list. The research of Richard F. Haines, PhD, helps fill this void. Dr. Haines, who received his master's and doctoral degrees in experimental psychology, spent much of his career as a research scientist at NASA's Ames facility. In 1986, he was appointed chief of the Space Human Factors Office, where he directed research and development efforts of the AX-5 "hard" EVA space suit, habitability design research for Space Station Freedom, and spacecraft window design, and consulted on supersonic wind tunnel automation redesign, among other things.

Dr. Haines' interest in UFO phenomena spans more than 20 years, his particular specialties being sightings by pilots, analysis of photographic evidence, and data on close encounters of the fourth kind. "These areas," he says, "contain the types of data that will bring us to a successful discovery of the core nature of the phenomena."

In his newest book, *Project Delta: A Study of Multiple UFO*, Dr. Haines has provided a richly detailed scientific study of multiple UFO sightings. The book opens with a primer on the dynamic features of flight, aeronautical technology advancement over the years, and the nature of energy as it relates to known physics. Also included is a UFO complex flight characteristic coding chart. Two hundred and thirty cases (divided into 17 predefined flight dynamic categories) are presented, with an abstract and comments concerning the important details of each event. An additional 243 cases are listed (with comments) in tabular form. Covering nearly 500 sightings from 1504 BC to 1993, *Project Delta* stands as an important historical document.

Dr. Haines chose to study UFO sightings involving *multiple* objects for two reasons. First, there had never been such a study, and he felt that it might provide something new or interesting. Second, and most importantly, when two or more objects are witnessed, the likelihood of prosaic explanations drops dramatically. To focus his approach during this study, Dr. Haines formulated several hypotheses based on the UFO evidence to date. Toward the end of the book, he compares each hypothesis with the presented evidence and draws fresh conclusions. Keeping with his hard-edged, scientific approach, Dr. Haines caps off this large collection of credible sightings with a statistical breakdown based on various criteria.

One of Dr. Haines' points that I found intriguing was the hypothetical question, "What if a modern battery-operated digital watch was transported back in time and given to Leonardo di Vinci?" Di Vinci would have eventually discovered that it was some sort of timepiece. But after he had understood it as much as possible, could he have applied anything new to his world? Would such an event have rushed the discovery of electricity, microminiaturization, crystal oscillators, or other such advanced sciences? Not likely. Is our government attempting to do the same thing with crashed saucer technologies? I doubt the answer will be forthcoming.

Dr. Haines concludes that there is a high likelihood the earth is being visited by intelligently controlled craft. The final word is best spoken by the author: "Writing this book has had a profound effect on me. I have had to confront my own initial deeply seated skepticism and closed-mindedness. I challenge you to consider the real implications of the present data for yourself."

Project Delta sells for \$9.95 plus S/H (total, \$12) and can be ordered from LDA Press, PO Box 880, Los Altos, California 94023. ♦

Of Interest

Houston Area

HUFON (Houston UFO Network)
First Friday of the Month, 7:00 PM
Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza

MUFON-Houston

Saturday, June 17, 3-5 PM
Harvey Hotel, 2712 SW Freeway
(Hwy. 59 outbound feeder west of Kirby)
Informal business meeting; 55-min.
Disney UFO film; Marfa video/plans
Adjourn to Pico's TexMex, 5:30 PM

VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

Thursday, August 17, 6:30 PM
Freeman Memorial Library
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City
Report on the 15th Rocky Mountain
UFO Conference and the 1995
MUFON (Seattle) UFO Symposium

Elsewhere

MUFON 1995 UFO Symposium
"Ufology: A Scientific Paradigm"
July 7-9, Seattle, Washington
\$55 registration to Marilyn Childs,
PO Box 1012, Bothell, WA 98041
Red Lion Hotel: Ask for MUFON
rates: (206) 246-8600.

MUFON UFO Hotline (800) UFO-2166

*"Every man takes the limits
of his own field of vision for
the limits of the world."*

—Arthur Schopenhauer

1994 calendar, Centre for Crop
Circle Studies

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